

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Dexter, et al.

Serial No.: 10/812,615

Filing Date: 03/29/2004

For: SNAP RING WITH RECESSED
INTERIOR CONTOUR

Art Unit: 3677

Examiner: SAETHER, Flemming

Confirmation No.: 3194

Docket No.: 157972-0010

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION MAILED 25JUL07

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Communication mailed on 25JUL07 for the above-identified patent application, please consider the following response filed together with a request for continued examination (RCE) and the associated fee therefore.

In the Office Communication mailed on 25JUL07, applicant's previous amendment filed 01 May 2007 was deemed to be a bona fide attempt to reply, but non-responsive. Specifically, applicant's previous amendment filed 01 May 2007 was deemed non-responsive because the new claims did not include the radius of curvature limitation as previously claimed. It is true that the radius of curvature limitation appeared in the immediately previously amended version of claims 1 and 14 (now canceled), and does not appear in new claims 31 - 42. However, Applicant telephoned

the examiner on 06 August, 2007, and pointed out that the independent claims as *originally* filed also lacked the radius of curvature limitation.

Thus the specific reason that was expressly stated by the examiner in the office communication mailed 25 July 2007, as to why the invention as now claimed would have separate utility, applies only to a comparison between the invention now claimed and the immediately previously amended claims, *not* to a comparison between the invention now claimed and the invention *originally* claimed.

Accordingly, the examiner agreed during the telephone call of 06AUG07 that applicant's previous amendment filed 01 May 2007 would be responsive if filed together with a request for continued examination (RCE). Applicant, therefore, is including an RCE with this response, plus payment of the associated RCE fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4119.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 16 August, 2007

By: _____
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